

City Council Introduction: September 18, 2000

Bill Number 00-166

Public Hearing: September 25, 2000

F A C T S H E E T

TITLE: Backfilling Plumber & Utility Cuts

SPONSOR: Public Works & Utilities

OTHER DEPARTMENTS AFFECTED:

Building & Safety

OPPONENTS: Some Plumber and Utility Contractors

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: For

APPLICANT:

REASON FOR LEGISLATION: To require Plumber and Utility Contractors to backfill their trenches in sidewalk areas.

D I S C U S S I O N

The City of Lincoln Maintenance Division has experienced an 80% increase in vehicle miles of roadway travel, its primary demand for service over the past 20 years. Since our staffing levels have remained unchanged, we have been forced to prioritize the services we provide and identify those areas where a service can be provided by other agencies or private companies.

One such area identified is backfilling and compacting of utility cuts within the public right-of-way, but outside of the traveled portion of a roadway. Plumbing contractors already handle the backfilling and compacting of public right-of-way where no sidewalk or paving is involved, as well as on private property. Involvement of City Maintenance crews often delays completion of work and unnecessarily complicates the work process. Scheduling our crews only adds to the risk of open trenches.

The Public Works Maintenance Division is, therefore, proposing that backfilling and compaction of utility cuts other than under traveled portions of public roadways be turned over to the private plumbers. City specifications requiring mechanical compaction for any backfilling in the City right-of-way would continue. We have also reviewed our charges for the work we perform under these permits and are proposing changes to those fees. The last fee adjustment occurred in 1991.

We are proposing to initiate this change in policy with these ordinance revisions. Since some plumbers do not have the equipment to compact trenches, we will continue to provide that service during a transition period until January 1, 2001. Fee adjustments will be effective January 1, 2001, by Executive Order.

DISCUSSION continued

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These proposed changes have been presented to Plumbing Heating Contractors Committee. Some contractors support the change in policy. Other contractors, who do not have compaction equipment oppose the change.

POLICY OR PROGRAM CHANGE: No

COST OF TOTAL PROJECT:

SOURCE OF FUNDS:

CITY:

NON CITY:

BENEFIT COST:

FACT SHEET PREPARED BY:

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REVIEWED BY:

Director of Public Works & Utilities

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